

Report of State Natural Gas Supervisor.

OFFICE OF STATE NATURAL GAS SUPERVISOR, FORTVILLE, INDIANA.

Prof. Edward Barrett, State Geologist of Indiana:

Sir.—I hereby transmit to you the twenty-first report of this Department, the same being my second report. I endeavor to report conditions as found by me in my visits to both the oil and gas fields. Also I will quote from some of the best authorities when and where the first gas and oil was found and the origin of the same, and in closing this my second year's work, I am pleased to acknowledge the very cordial support and valuable suggestions that I have received from you from the beginning.

Very respectfully,

W. E. MORSE,
State Natural Gas Supervisor.

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In all previous reports, the gas has been discussed at length and the waste of the same, but there has been but little effort to have laws made to correct this evil until this year, when I hope the Legislature will remedy all laws so that the waste can be stopped entirely.

The impression prevails among the people that this Department has nothing to do with the oil wells which produce as much wealth to the operator as gas, and much more to the one who owns the farm. I look after the oil as closely as the gas. The trouble which I come in contact with mostly, and which has been given the least attention in the past, is the fresh and salt water. The fresh water does more damage than the salt water. Casings become bad by remaining in use so long, and allow the fresh water to leak down into the gas and oil bearing rock, which destroys the gas and oil. A stream of fresh water the size of a lead pencil will destroy hundreds of dollars worth of oil; salt water will destroy the gas when such water is allowed to stand in wells which are abandoned and not properly plugged. The gas bearing rock becomes flooded, driving the gas back in the rock until the pressure becomes so great that it will counteract the pressure of the salt water, thus preventing the utilizing of the gas and oil.

However, I have had but little trouble to convince the people that it is their duty to remedy all such evils, as soon as I get information that such wells are in bad condition. The waste of gas is not giving as much trouble now as it has been in the past, as nearly all oil companies have provided ways of husbanding the extra gas.

OLD FIELDS.

In the old fields there seems to be some excitement. In some localities the operators are looking after old leases which had been returned to the owners of the farms, and more drilling has been done in the last six months than in the three years previous, wells having been found that will produce from 15 to 250 barrels of oil, with enough gas to operate them, and when spring weather comes there promises to be much more drilling done. This is brought about by the price of oil, which is at this writing \$1.23 per barrel.

GREENE COUNTY.

Greene County is at this time very promising to become an oil field. Four wells, ranging in production from 5 to 35 barrels per day, with a very fine grade of oil, have been drilled the past year. The Ohio Pipe Line Company has laid a line to the wells and are now taking care of all oil.

SULLIVAN COUNTY.

Sullivan County has not been very active, but still has some production there. It seems that one company has taken very nearly all the leases and is holding same for a larger price than the operators wish to pay.

PIKE AND GIBSON COUNTIES.

These counties are still holding up to about their usual production of both gas and oil, and there is some drilling being done, but very few wells have been plugged within the last year.

HARRISON COUNTY.

Harrison County has come forward with both gas and oil. There has been gas produced in Harrison County for some time, the same being piped to Louisville, Kentucky. Both the gas and oil wells vary in depth from 60 to 900 feet, and six oil wells range in depth from 135 feet to 700 feet, with a production of from 5 to 30 barrels per day. It is the opinion of the writer that this county will develop into a good gas and oil field, as gas and oil are found in various sands.